



MARVEL
COMICS
GROUP 12¢

HERE COMES...

DAREDEVIL

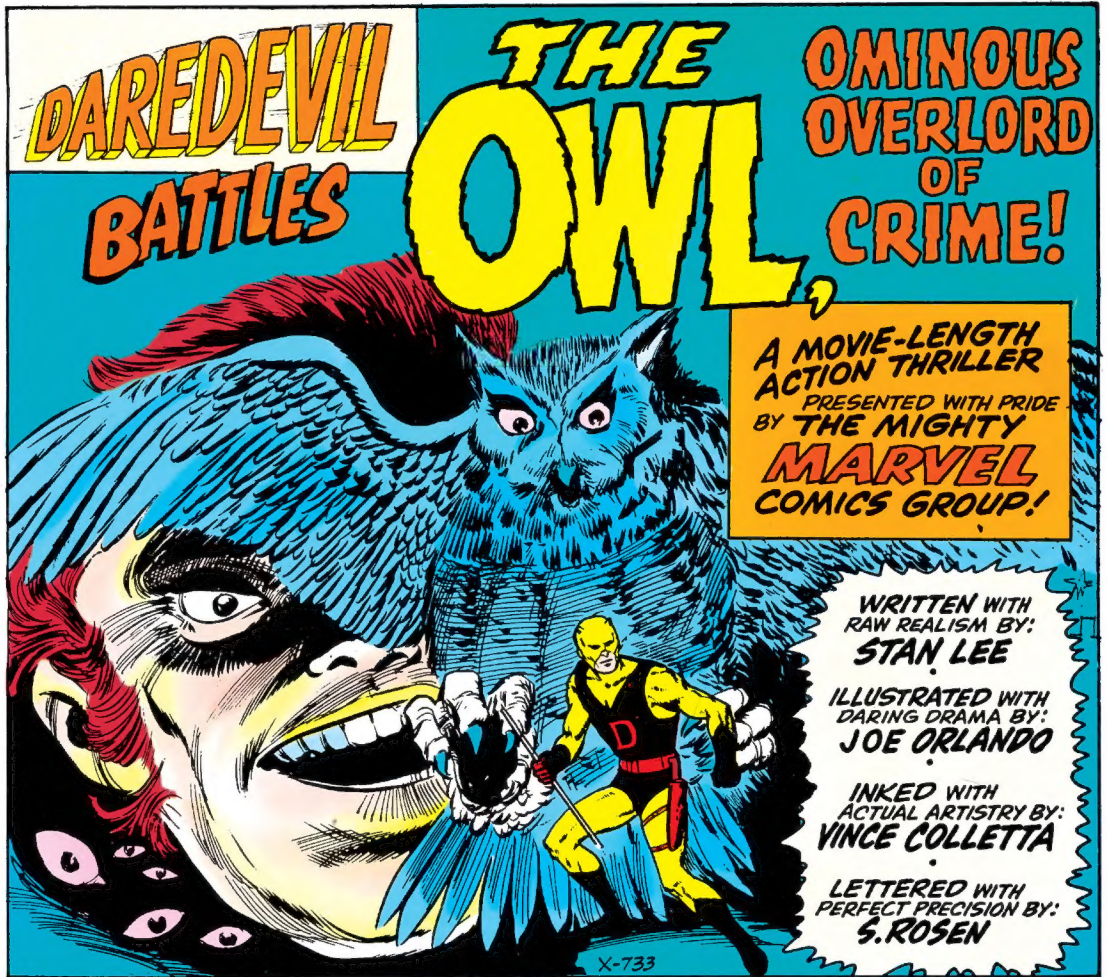
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THE MAN WITHOUT FEAR!

MARVEL'S NEWEST
SENSATION IS TRAPPED
BY...
THE OWL
OVERLORD OF
CRIME!





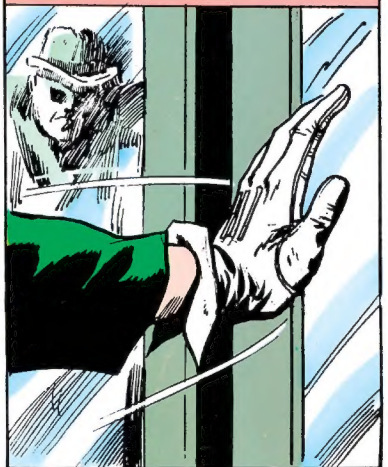
THIS IS WALL STREET, HEART OF NEW YORK'S FINANCIAL DISTRICT, WHERE FORTUNES ARE MADE AND LOST BY THE WORLD'S GREATEST FINANCIAL WIZARDS! AND, WITHIN THE CANYONS OF THIS STREET, WE ARE ABOUT TO FIND ONE CERTAIN MAN...



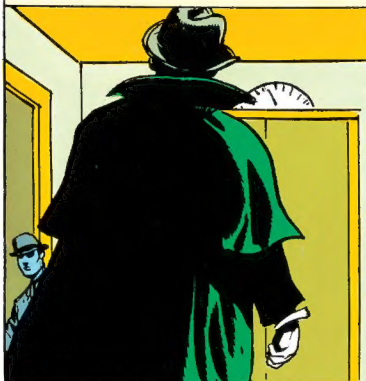
...A MERCILESS MAN...A MAN WITH NO FRIENDS...NO LOVED ONES... NOTHING TO CONNECT HIM WITH THE HUMAN RACE SAVE THE FACT OF HIS BIRTH! LET US FOLLOW THIS MAN...



LET US STUDY HIM AS HE WALKS INTO A TOWERING OFFICE BUILDING, HIS HEAVY FOOTSTEPS REVERBERATING THROUGH THE HUGE MARBLE LOBBY! FOR WE SHALL SEE MUCH OF THIS MAN ON THE PAGES THAT FOLLOW...



HE WALKS SLOWLY, BUT WITH A SURE, STEADY TREAD... LOOKING NEITHER TO THE RIGHT NOR THE LEFT... IGNORING THOSE HE PASSES AND THOSE WHO PASS HIM!



BUT HE HIMSELF CANNOT READILY BE IGNORED BY OTHERS! HIS VERY PRESENCE SEEMS SO FRAUGHT WITH EVIL, WITH MENACE, THAT HIS FELLOW HUMANS SHRINK BACK FROM THE MERE SIGHT OF HIM!



THERE ARE SOME WHO RECOGNIZE HIM... WHO SPEAK HIS NAME IN WHISPERS... FOR HIS WEALTH IS SAID TO BE LEGENDARY, AND HIS POWER ALMOST BEYOND MEASURE!



BUT THERE IS **ANOTHER** WITH EQUAL POWER WHO SITS DARINGLY PERCHED ON A ROOFTOP ACROSS THE STREET, HIS INCREDIBLY SHARP SENSES WAITING FOR THE SLIGHTEST CALL FOR HELP, WHICH WILL INSTANTLY BRING **DAREDEVIL** INTO ACTION!



BUT FATE IS SHAPING EVENTS IN SUCH A WAY THAT DAREDEVIL SOON **WILL** BE NEEDED... AND ALL BECAUSE OF THE MAN WE HAVE BEEN FOLLOWING...



...THE MAN WHOSE LEGAL NAME IS LONG SINCE FORGOTTEN, FOR HE IS KNOWN TO THE WORLD AT LARGE ONLY AS... **THE OWL**, THE MOST RUTHLESS FINANCIAL WIZARD OF ALL TIME!



ARROGANTLY HE ENTERS HIS PALATIAL OFFICES AS A TIMOROUS FEMALE VOICE INFORMS HIM...

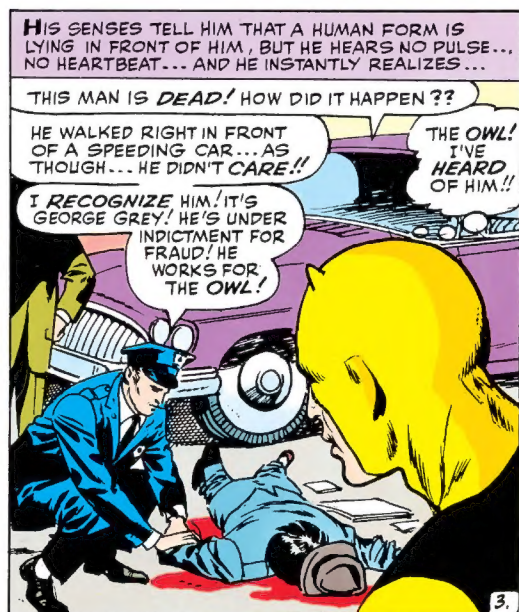
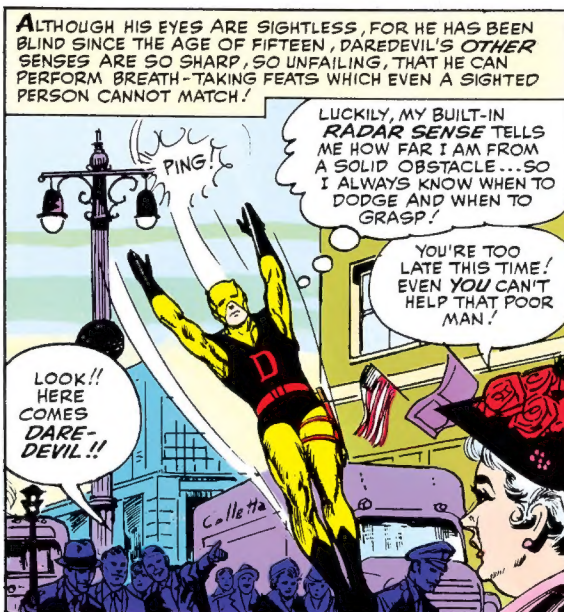
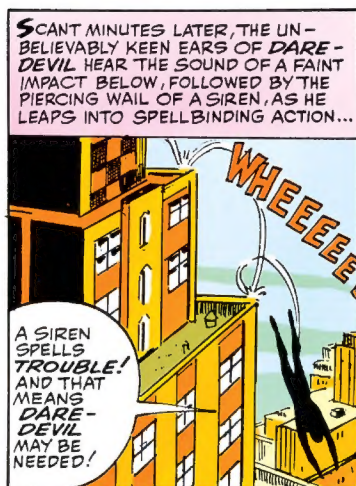
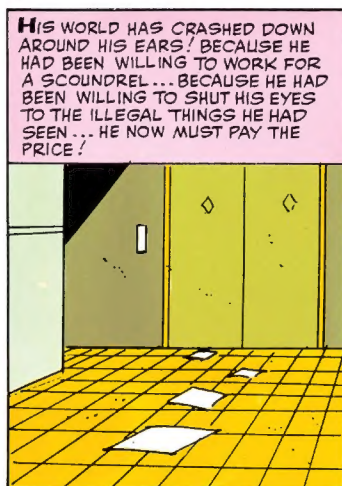


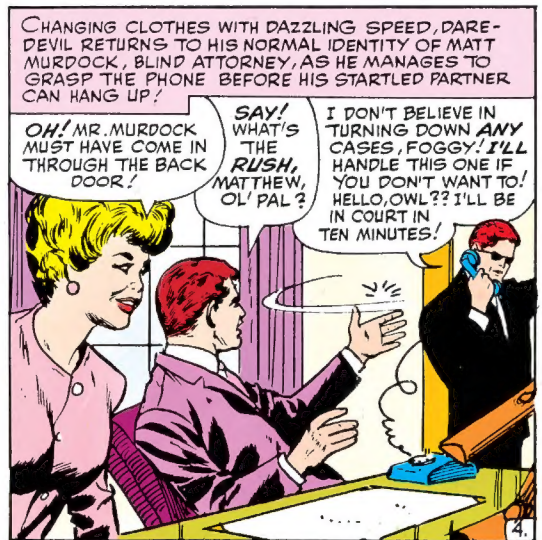
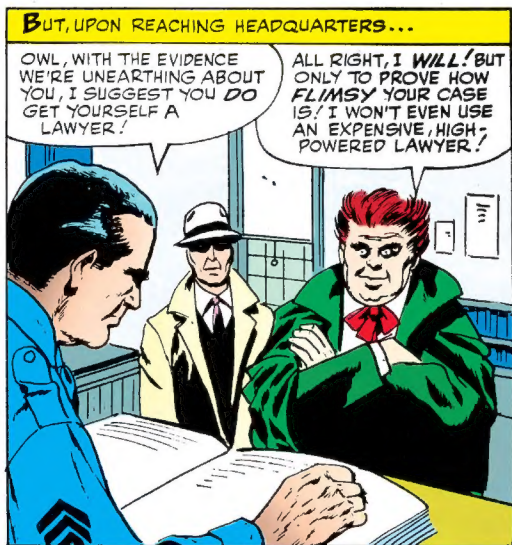
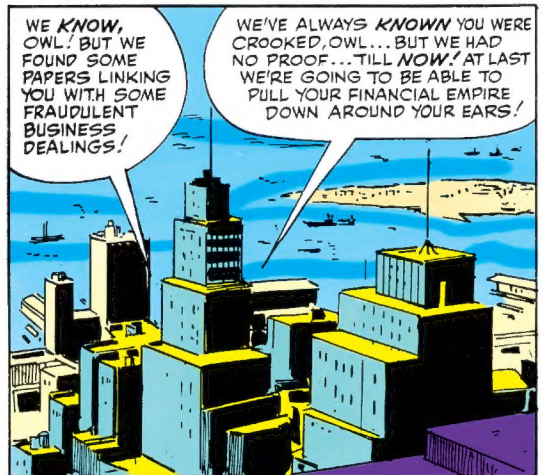
I HIRED HIM AS MY ACCOUNTANT SO THAT **HE** WOULD TAKE THE BLAME IF EVER MY ILLEGAL BUSINESS DEALINGS WERE EXPOSED! CAN HE FINALLY HAVE WISED UP?



OWL, I NEED YOUR HELP! THE INCOME TAX PEOPLE ARE ACCUSING ME OF FRAUD... BECAUSE OF **YOU**! BUT I'M INNOCENT ... YOU KNOW THAT!







BRIMMING WITH EXCITEMENT, MATT MURDOCK LEAVES THE OFFICE, CHANGING BACK TO **DAREDEVIL** AS SOON AS HE IS SAFELY OUT OF SIGHT. AND THEN, ROLLING HIS WRINKLE-PROOF SUIT INTO A GIGAT BALL, HE RACES TOWARDS HIS GOAL AT BREAKNECK SPEED...

I'VE BEEN ANXIOUS TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE MYSTERIOUS **OWL**... AND THIS IS THE CHANCE OF A LIFETIME!

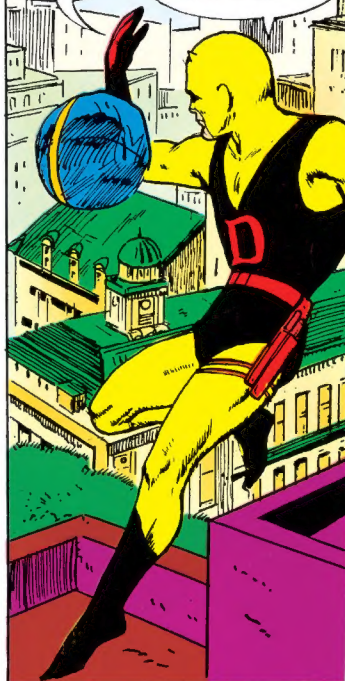


I'VE **TRIED** TO EXPLAIN TO FOGGY THAT **EVERY** MAN IS ENTITLED TO A LAWYER! IF WE ATTORNEYS REFUSE TO HELP ACCUSED PEOPLE BECAUSE WE THINK THEY'RE GUILTY, THEN WE'RE JUDGING THEM WITHOUT TRIAL!



BESIDES, THE **OWL** INTRIGUES ME! I WANT TO LEARN MORE ABOUT HIM!

AH, I HEAR THE COURT HOUSE BELL CHIMING! IT'S TIME FOR ME TO CHANGE BACK TO MATT MURDOCK AND CALL UPON MY NEW CLIENT!



REACHING THE COURT, IT ISN'T LONG BEFORE THE YOUNG ATTORNEY SETS THE LEGAL WHEELS IN MOTION...

VERY WELL, COUNSELOR, I WILL FREE YOUR CLIENT ON A WRIT OF HABEAS CORPUS!

BUT HE IS TO REPORT TO THIS COURT TOMORROW MORNING AT TEN FOR FURTHER DISPOSITION!

THANK YOU, SERGEANT! AND NOW, IF I MAY MEET MY CLIENT...

HE'S RIGHT OVER HERE, MR. MURDOCK!



TURNING SLOWLY, MATT MURDOCK INVOLUNTARILY RECOILS IN SHOCK AS AN AURA OF UNMISTAKABLE **VILLAINY** SEEMS TO SURROUND HIS RAZOR-SHARP SENSES...

I AM THE **OWL**!

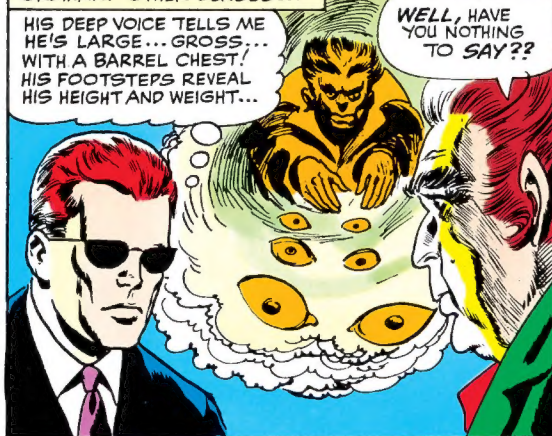
IT'S INCREDIBLE!! I CAN TELL BY THE SOUND OF HIS HEART-BEAT, HIS PULSE RATE, HIS LABORED BREATHING... THE MAN IS CHARGED WITH SHEER ANIMAL POWER... WITH ALMOST LIMITLESS ENERGY... ALL OF IT DIRECTED INTO EVIL CHANNELS!



ALTHOUGH DENIED THE USE OF HIS EYES BY A CRUEL QUIRK OF CIRCUMSTANCE, THE SIGHTLESS LAWYER IS ABLE TO CONJURE UP PERHAPS A **TRUER** VISION OF THE MAN WHO FACES HIM BY MEANS OF HIS EXTRA-ORDINARY OTHER SENSES...

HIS DEEP VOICE TELLS ME HE'S LARGE... GROSS... WITH A BARREL CHEST! HIS FOOTSTEPS REVEAL HIS HEIGHT AND WEIGHT...

WELL, HAVE YOU NOTHING TO SAY??



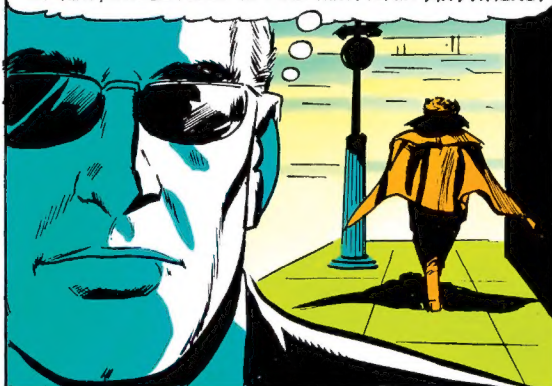
SORRY! I WAS, EH, THINKING! YOU'RE TO RETURN HERE TOMORROW MORNING AT TEN!

OF COURSE! I'LL SEE YOU THEN! GOOD-BYE!!

HE DOESN'T REALIZE I CAN HEAR HIS PULSE! IT'S LIKE HAVING A BUILT-IN LIE DETECTOR! HIS PULSE RATE SPEEDED UP UNNATURALLY! HE HAS NO INTENTION OF BEING HERE TOMORROW!



I CAN HEAR HIM CACKLING TO HIMSELF AS HE LEAVES! BUT IT DOESN'T MATTER! HE ISN'T GETTING AWAY WITH ANYTHING! NOW THAT I'VE FORMED A MENTAL IMAGE OF HIM, I'LL BE ABLE TO FIND HIM AGAIN **ANYWHERE!**

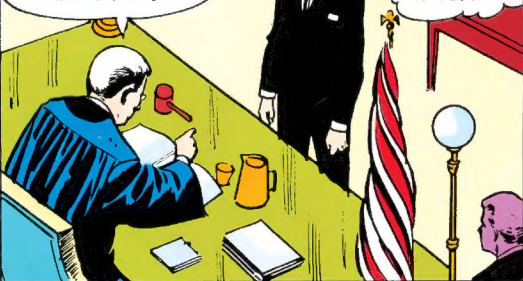


THE NEXT MORNING, AT TEN O'CLOCK, AS MATT MURDOCK APPEARS IN COURT...

YOUR CLIENT HAS NOT SHOWN UP, COUNSELOR! I SHALL ISSUE A SUMMONS FOR HIS IMMEDIATE ARREST! THAT IS ALL!

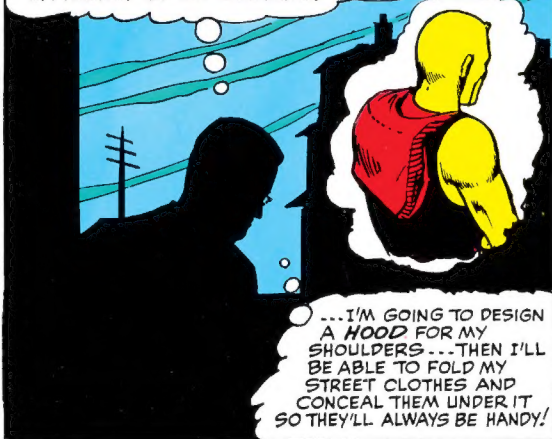
VERY WELL, YOUR HONOR!

WHAT DOES THE OWL EXPECT TO **GAIN** BY THIS? HE MUST KNOW HE'LL BE FOUND SOONER OR LATER!



LATER, AS THE MAN WITHOUT FEAR RETURNS TO HIS OFFICE...

I HAVE A FEELING THAT IT WILL SOON BE TIME FOR **DAREDEVIL** TO GO INTO ACTION AGAIN, AND I'VE JUST THOUGHT OF A WAY TO IMPROVE THE EFFICIENCY OF MY COSTUME!



...I'M GOING TO DESIGN A **HOOD** FOR MY SHOULDERS... THEN I'LL BE ABLE TO FOLD MY STREET CLOTHES AND CONCEAL THEM UNDER IT SO THEY'LL ALWAYS BE HANDY!

AND, UPON JOINING KAREN AND FOGGY AGAIN...

I'M GOING TO TAKE KAREN **BOWLING** TONIGHT, MATT! HOW ABOUT JOINING US?

NO, THANKS, FOGGY! I'M AFRAID I WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO APPRECIATE IT! A SPARE AND A NEAR-STRIKE SOUND ABOUT THE SAME TO ME!

POOR MATT! MY HEART GOES OUT TO HIM FOR HIS HANDICAP! IF ONLY I COULD TAKE HIM IN MY ARMS...!



ANYONE LOOKING INTO MATT MURDOCK'S APARTMENT THAT NIGHT WOULD SEE THE INCREDIBLE SIGHT OF A MAN THREADING A NEEDLE AND SEWING IN THE DARK!

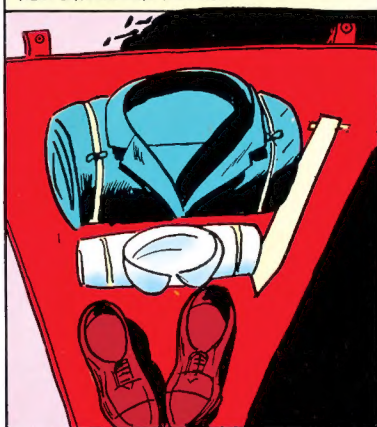
IT'S AMAZING HOW MY *OTHER* SENSES CAN COMPENSATE FOR MY LACK OF SIGHT! MY SENSE OF TOUCH IS SO ACUTE THAT THIS IS CHILD'S PLAY FOR ME!



THERE! IT SEEMS TO FIT PERFECTLY! AND I CAN CLOSE IT EASILY BY USING ONE OF THOSE NEW CONTACT-TYPE ZIPPERS! NOW TO SEE IF ALL MY OUTER CLOTHES WILL FIT!



AND FIT THEY *DO*! AGAIN GUIDED BY HIS UNCANNY SENSE OF TOUCH, THE SIGHTLESS ADVENTURER IS ABLE TO CONTAIN A COMPLETE CHANGE OF CLOTHES WITHIN HIS CLEVERLY DESIGNED NEW SHOULDER POUCH!



MINUTES LATER, WE FIND THE DAZZLING *DAREDEVIL* TRAVELING AT BREAKNECK SPEED THROUGH THE GREAT CITY'S MAZE OF DARK, TWISTING UNDERGROUND TUNNELS...



I'VE COVERED EVERY IMPORTANT ARTERY! WHEREVER THE OWL IS HIDING, IT ISN'T BELOW THE SURFACE!

NEXT, THE MAN WITHOUT FEAR TAKES TO THE AIR...

I'LL COVER THE BRIDGES LEADING OUT OF THE CITY! IF HE'S CROSSED ANY OF THEM, THE SCENT OF HIS UNUSUAL HAIR TONIC SHOULD STILL BE DETECTABLE TO ME!



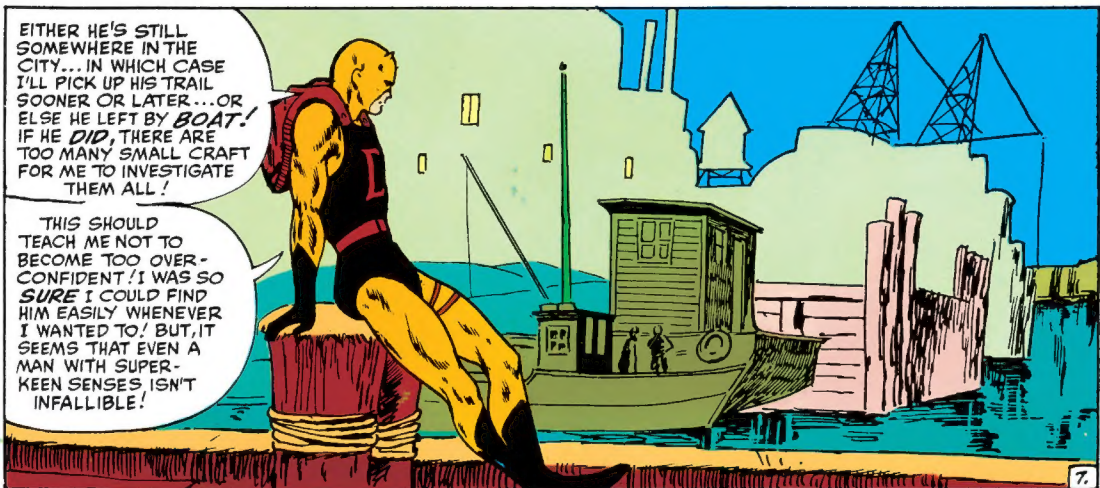
AND, AS THE LONG EVENING HOURS CRAWL BY...

THIS IS MY FINAL STOP! NO TRACE OF THE OWL HAVING PASSED THROUGH ANY BRIDGE OR TRAIN STATION! THAT CAN ONLY MEAN TWO THINGS...



EITHER HE'S STILL SOMEWHERE IN THE CITY... IN WHICH CASE I'LL PICK UP HIS TRAIL SOONER OR LATER... OR ELSE HE LEFT BY *BOAT*! IF HE *DID*, THERE ARE TOO MANY SMALL CRAFT FOR ME TO INVESTIGATE THEM ALL!

THIS SHOULD TEACH ME NOT TO BECOME TOO OVER-CONFIDENT! I WAS SO *SURE* I COULD FIND HIM EASILY WHENEVER I WANTED TO! BUT, IT SEEMS THAT EVEN A MAN WITH SUPER-KEEN SENSES ISN'T INFALLIBLE!



MEANTIME, WHERE *IS* THE MYSTERIOUS OWL? ALTHOUGH HE DOESN'T YET KNOW IT, DAREDEVIL'S *SECOND* GUESS WAS THE CORRECT ONE! FOR, ACROSS THE HUDSON, PERCHED HIGH ABOVE THE PALISADES CLIFFS, IS ONE OF THE STRANGEST RESIDENCES IN THE NATION! IT IS THE OWL'S *AERIE!* LOOKING LIKE NOTHING MORE THAN A JAGGED PART OF THE SCENERY WHEN VIEWED FROM THE RIVER, THIS COMPLEX STRUCTURE SEEMS TO EXUDE THE SAME AIR OF MENACE AS THE MAN WHO INHABITS IT!

RRING!

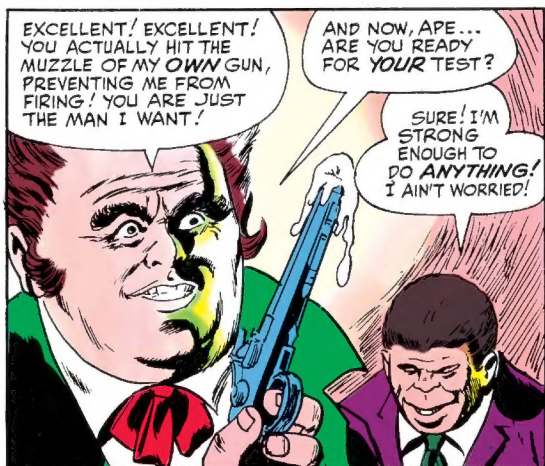
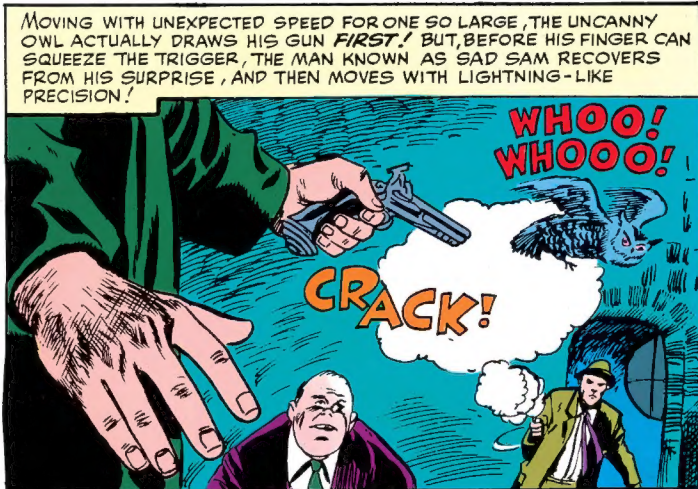
AH, MY ALARM BELL! THAT MEANS THE TWO "GUESTS" I INVITED HAVE ARRIVED! I MUST GO TO WELCOME THEM!

SEATING HIMSELF UPON A CHAIR WHICH RESEMBLES SOME FANTASTIC VERSION OF AN OWLISH THRONE, THE MILLIONAIRE FUGITIVE WATCHES TWO COLD-EYED MEN SLOWLY ENTER!

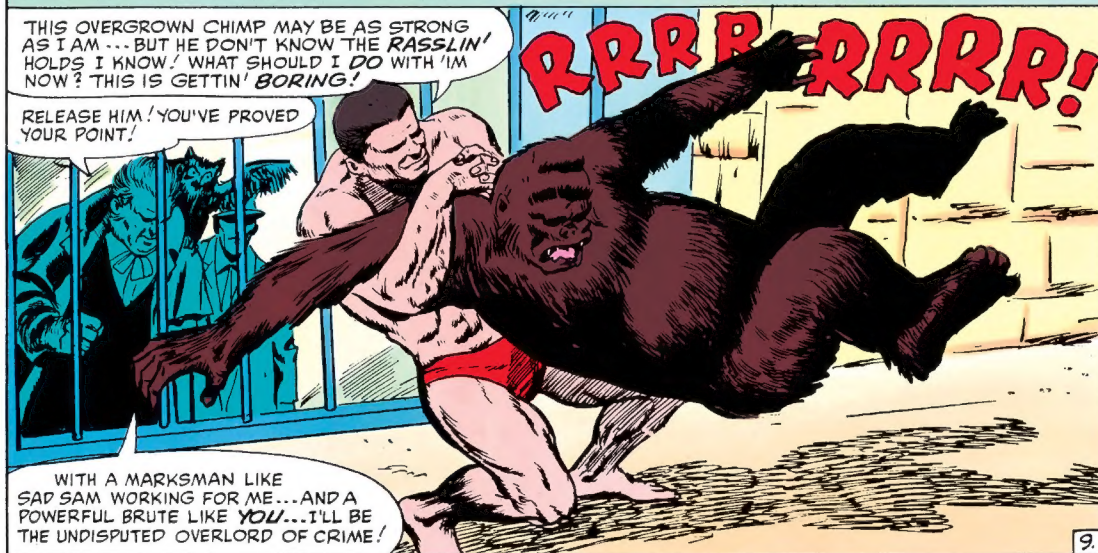
SO! "SAD SAM" SIMMS, AND "APE" HORGON! I HAVE HEARD THAT YOU ARE TWO OF THE UNDERWORLD'S MOST DANGEROUS MEN! WE SHALL SEE IF YOU ARE DANGEROUS ENOUGH TO SERVE THE OWL!

YOU USED TO PRETEND TO BE LEGIT UNTIL NOW, OWL! YOU ALWAYS WORKED ALONE! WHAT HAPPENED?

I MADE A CARELESS MISTAKE! NOW THERE IS NO FURTHER NEED FOR PRETENSE! THE WORLD NOW KNOWS I AM A CRIMINAL, SO I HAVE PLANNED A *NEW* CAREER FOR MYSELF!



MINUTES LATER, THE MAN KNOWN AS "APE" HURLS HIMSELF INTO BATTLE AGAINST THE SNARLING, SAVAGE BEAST WITHIN THE HEAVILY BARRED CAGE! AND, AS THE OWL AND HIS NEW GUNMAN WATCH IN AMAZEMENT...





AND NOW...I SHALL DEMONSTRATE MY OWN POWER... TO MAKE SURE YOU NEVER DARE THINK YOU CAN DOUBLE-CROSS YOUR MASTER!

IF YOU ASK ME, HE'S SOME KINDA NUT!

SHUDDUP... TILL WE KNOW MORE ABOUT HIM!



STAND WHERE YOU ARE! *GOOD!* NOW LISTEN CLOSELY...I HAVE MANAGED TO SAVE A FORTUNE OVER THE YEARS...MONEY WHICH I'VE SPENT TO INCREASE MY POWERS! THAT IS WHY I'M READY TO COME OUT INTO THE OPEN AT LAST...TO BATTLE THE FORCES OF LAW AND ORDER!

BUT WHAT POWERS ARE YOU TALKIN' ABOUT??

YOU SHALL SEE FOR YOURSELF WITHIN SECONDS!



NOT FOR *NOTHING* DO I CALL MYSELF THE *OWL*! NOT MERELY BECAUSE I BEAR A SLIGHT PHYSICAL RESEMBLANCE TO THE NOCTURNAL BIRD OF PREY WHICH YOU SEE PERCHED UPON MY SHOULDER! NO...THERE IS *ANOTHER* REASON!



AND NOW... YOU SHALL LEARN WHAT IT *IS*!! ALL I NEED DO IS PRESS THIS CONTROL BUTTON...

WE WERE STANDIN' ON A TRAP DOOR!!

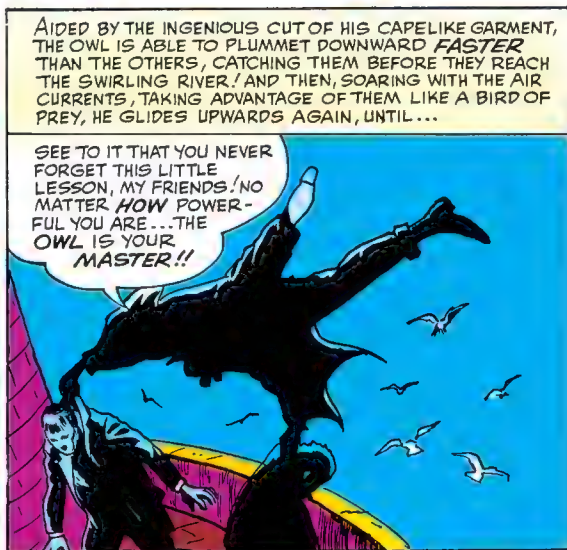
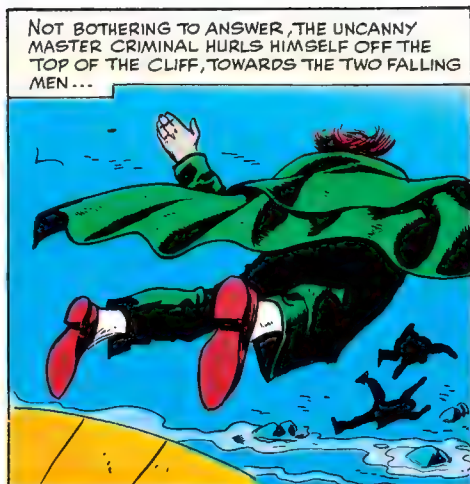
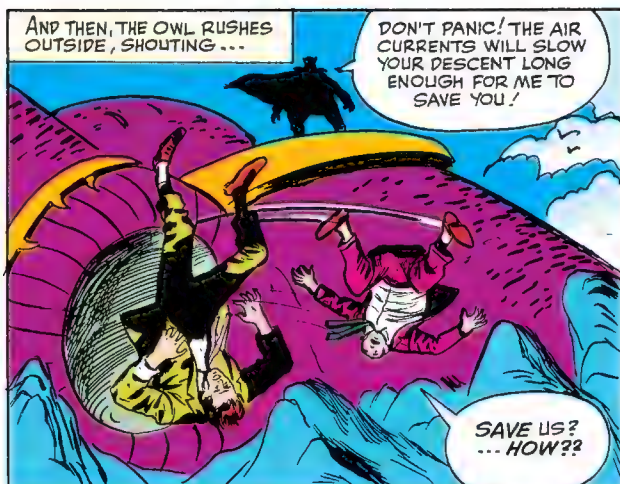
HE'S TRYIN' TO KILL US!! WE'RE FALLIN'!! HELLIP!



THEN, AS THE TWO STARTLED CRIMINALS PLUNGE DOWNWARD, A LOUD, CACKLING, SPINE-CHILLING LAUGH FOLLOWS THEM DOWN, AND DOWN, AND DOWN...

HA HA!
HO HO!
HA HA!

HA HA!



MEANWHILE, WHAT OF THAT "HELPLESS" LAWYER WHOM THE OWL IS SEEKING? LET US JOIN HIM ONCE AGAIN IN THE LAW OFFICES OF NELSON AND MURDOCK...

WHAT'S WRONG, MATT?? YOU'VE BEEN LOOKING DOWNHEARTED ALL DAY! ANYTHING WORRYING YOU, PARTNER?

I THINK YOU'VE BEEN WORKING TOO HARD, MR. MURDOCK! PERHAPS IF YOU...

NO, I'M OKAY! FORGET IT!

I CAN'T VERY WELL TELL THEM HOW DISTURBED I AM THAT I LET THE OWL GET AWAY FROM ME! I FEEL LIKE A FOOL!

MR. MURDOCK, I KNOW YOU DON'T LIKE ME TO MENTION THIS, BUT I CAN'T STOP WISHING YOU'D CHANGE YOUR MIND ABOUT NOT WANTING AN EYE OPERATION! IF THERE'S A CHANCE OF YOUR REGAINING YOUR SIGHT, ISN'T IT WORTH TAKING?

I KNOW YOU MEAN WELL, KAREN! AND I APPRECIATE IT! BUT... I'VE LEARNED TO LIVE WITH MY AFFLICTION! PERHAPS WE CAN DISCUSS THIS SOME OTHER TIME!

RIGHT NOW IT'S PAST QUITTING TIME! SO YOU JUST RUN ALONG! THERE'S NOTHING FOR YOU TO WORRY ABOUT!

VERY WELL! I REALIZE I HAD NO RIGHT TO OFFER YOU PERSONAL ADVICE! I'M SORRY IF I SPOKE OUT OF TURN! IT WON'T HAPPEN AGAIN!

IF ONLY I COULD FORGET HIM! WHY DO I TORTURE MYSELF SO? I MEAN LESS THAN NOTHING TO HIM!

HER PULSE RATE IS ALWAYS SPEEDING UP WHEN SHE'S NEAR ME! I CAN HEAR IT! I WONDER...?

NO... IT'S IMPOSSIBLE! HOW COULD SHE EVER BE INTERESTED IN ME?? AND YET...!

WAIT! THAT ODOR! THE SCENT OF A BIRD!... AN OWL! COMING FROM THE OTHER SIDE OF THE WALL! BUT THAT OFFICE IS VACANT!

CAN'T TAKE ANY CHANCES! I HATE TO LIE, BUT I'VE GOT TO GET FOGGY OUT OF HERE... SO I CAN CHANGE!

DIDN'T YOU HEAR KAREN'S TONE OF VOICE WHEN SHE LEFT, FOGGY? EVEN I COULD TELL SHE WAS DISAPPOINTED BECAUSE YOU DIDN'T OFFER TO WALK HER HOME!

REALLY, MATT?! GOSH, I'LL GO RIGHT AFTER HER! MAYBE I CAN STILL CATCH HER! YOU'RE A REAL PAL!

AND, NO SOONER DOES MATT MURDOCK HEAR THE DOOR CLOSE IN THE ANTEROOM, THAN...

AND NOW... EXIT MATT MURDOCK, ATTORNEY-AT-LAW... BECAUSE... HERE COMES... DAREDEVIL!!



AS SURE-FOOTED AS A PUMA... AS SILENT AS A LEOPARD... AS FEARLESS AS A TIGER... THE MASKED ADVENTURER STEPS OUT UPON THE NARROW LEDGE WHICH ENCIRCLES THE UPPER FLOORS OF HIS OFFICE BUILDING, AND THEN, EVERY SENSE KEYED TO ITS HIGHEST PITCH, HE INCHES TOWARDS THE ADJOINING OFFICE WINDOW...

THE MUFFLED WHISPERS FROM THE NEXT OFFICE ARE LIKE ROARING SHOUTS TO ME! THERE ARE THREE MEN IN THERE... AND ONE IS, WITHOUT ANY DOUBT, THE OWL!



THE HEART-BEATS ARE SLIGHTLY TO MY RIGHT... ABOUT FIVE FEET AWAY!

JUDGING BY THE DEPTH AND PITCH OF THE BREATHING, THE MEN WITH THE OWL ARE OPPOSITES! ONE, TALL AND THIN... THE OTHER, SHORT AND HUSKY!

IT'S DAREDEVIL!!



I DUNNO WHAT HE'S DOIN' HERE, BUT YOU WANT ME TO TAKE CARE OF HIM, OWL?

LET ME DO IT, BOSS! I HAVEN'T HAD ANY PRACTICE FOR A WHILE!

THEY CALL HIM "BOSS"... SO THEY'RE IN HIS EMPLOY! BUT WHAT ARE THEY DOING HERE... NEXT DOOR TO MATT MURDOCK???

HE'S UP FOR GRABS, BOYS! YOU CAN BOTH HAVE HIM! NO CORNY MASKED ACROBAT IS GOING TO STOP THE OWL FROM GETTING HIMSELF A LAWYER!



SO THAT'S IT! HE'S HERE TO TRY TO MAKE MATT MURDOCK HIS LAWYER!

YOU BACK ME UP, SAD SAM! I'LL TACKLE 'IM FIRST!

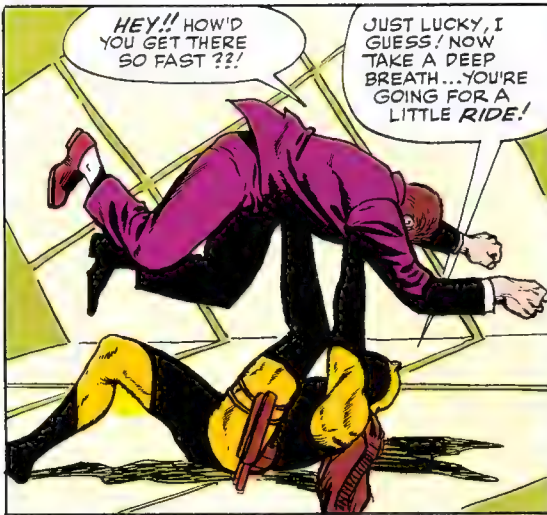


OKAY... GO AHEAD!

A GUY WHO CAN BEAT A GORILLA WITH HIS BARE HANDS WON'T HAVE ANY TROUBLE WITH ONE COSTUMED CLOWN!

THAT'S WHAT YOU THINK, FELLA! I'M A LOT HARDER TO CATCH THAN ANY OF YOUR GORILLA FRIENDS!!





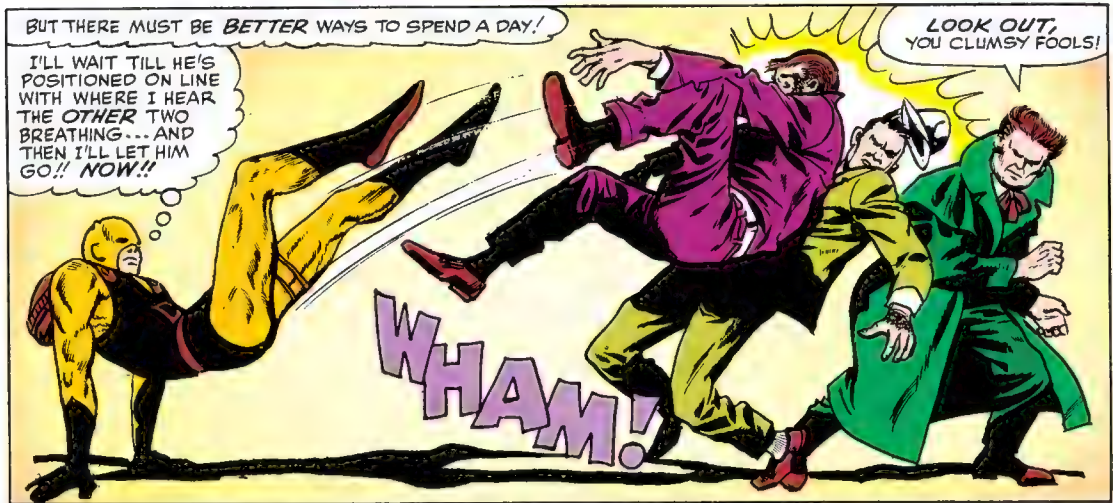
HEY!! HOW'D YOU GET THERE SO FAST ??!

JUST LUCKY, I GUESS! NOW TAKE A DEEP BREATH...YOU'RE GOING FOR A LITTLE RIDE!



YEEOW!

SINCE LOSING MY SIGHT, MY SENSE OF BALANCE IS SO ACUTE THAT I COULD DO THIS ALL DAY WITHOUT DROPPING HIM!

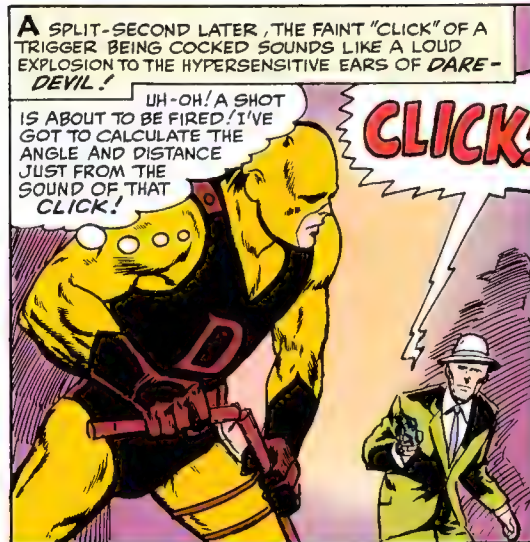


BUT THERE MUST BE *BETTER* WAYS TO SPEND A DAY!

I'LL WAIT TILL HE'S POSITIONED ON LINE WITH WHERE I HEAR THE *OTHER* TWO BREATHING... AND THEN I'LL LET HIM GO!! *NOW!!*

LOOK OUT, YOU CLUMSY FOOLS!

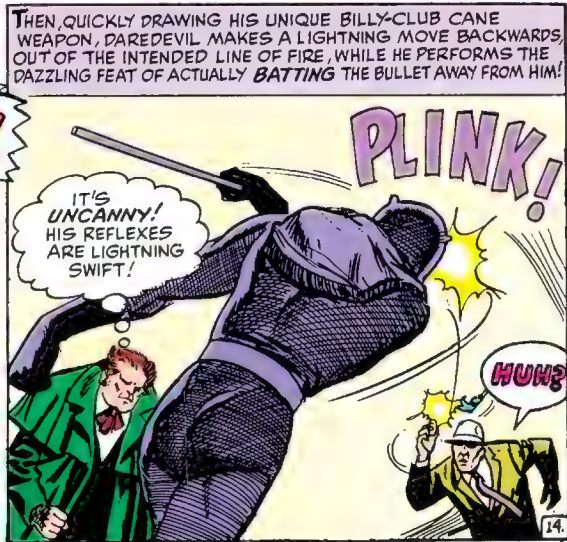
WHAM!



A SPLIT-SECOND LATER, THE FAINT "CLICK" OF A TRIGGER BEING COCKED SOUNDS LIKE A LOUD EXPLOSION TO THE HYPERSENSITIVE EARS OF *DAREDEVIL*!

UH-OH! A SHOT IS ABOUT TO BE FIRED! I'VE GOT TO CALCULATE THE ANGLE AND DISTANCE JUST FROM THE SOUND OF THAT *CLICK!*

CLICK!

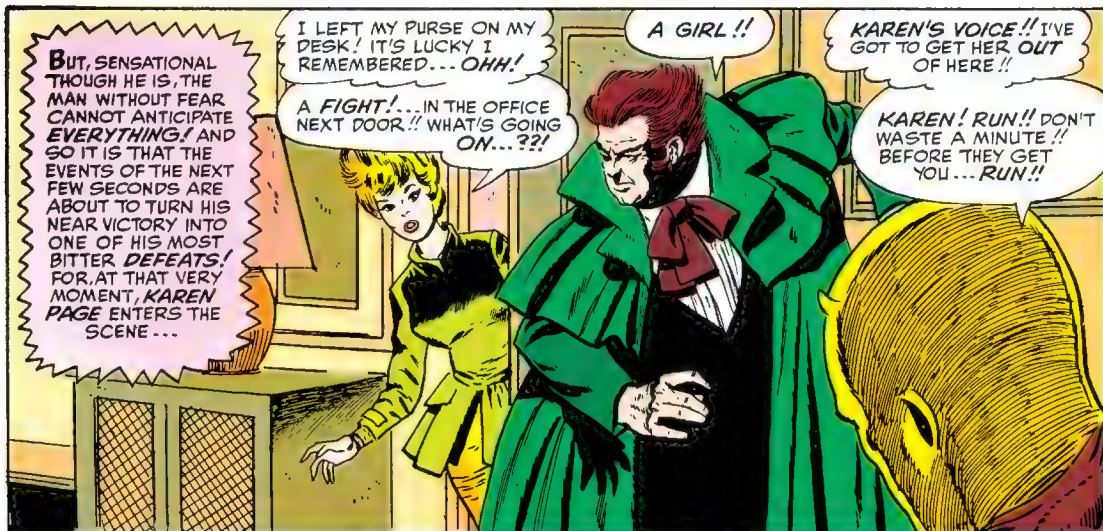


THEN, QUICKLY DRAWING HIS UNIQUE BILLY-CLUB CANE WEAPON, DAREDEVIL MAKES A LIGHTNING MOVE BACKWARDS, OUT OF THE INTENDED LINE OF FIRE, WHILE HE PERFORMS THE DAZZLING FEAT OF ACTUALLY *BATting* THE BULLET AWAY FROM HIM!

IT'S *UNCANNY!* HIS REFLEXES ARE LIGHTNING SWIFT!

PLINK!

HUH?



BUT, SENSATIONAL THOUGH HE IS, THE MAN WITHOUT FEAR CANNOT ANTICIPATE EVERYTHING! AND SO IT IS THAT THE EVENTS OF THE NEXT FEW SECONDS ARE ABOUT TO TURN HIS NEAR VICTORY INTO ONE OF HIS MOST BITTER DEFEATS! FOR, AT THAT VERY MOMENT, KAREN PAGE ENTERS THE SCENE...

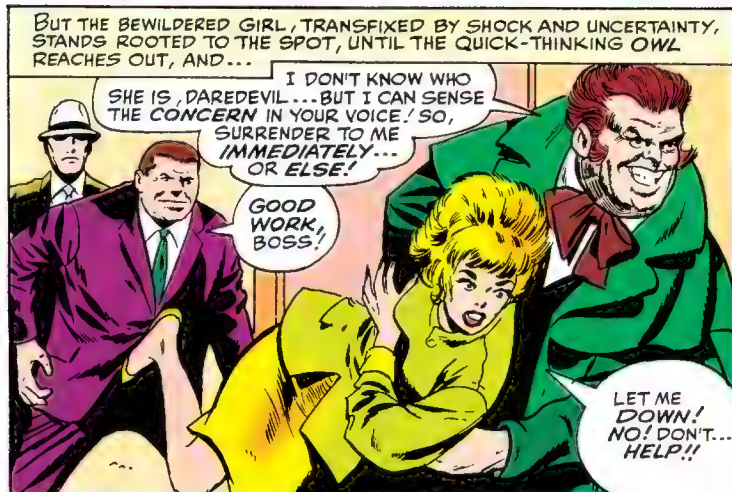
I LEFT MY PURSE ON MY DESK! IT'S LUCKY I REMEMBERED... OHH!

A GIRL!!

KAREN'S VOICE!! I'VE GOT TO GET HER OUT OF HERE!!

A FIGHT!... IN THE OFFICE NEXT DOOR!! WHAT'S GOING ON...??!

KAREN! RUN!! DON'T WASTE A MINUTE!! BEFORE THEY GET YOU... RUN!!

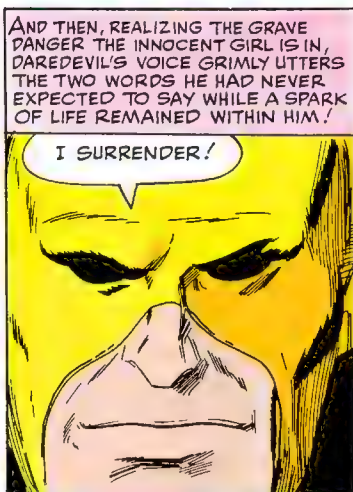


BUT THE BEWILDERED GIRL, TRANSFIXED BY SHOCK AND UNCERTAINTY, STANDS ROOTED TO THE SPOT, UNTIL THE QUICK-THINKING OWL REACHES OUT, AND...

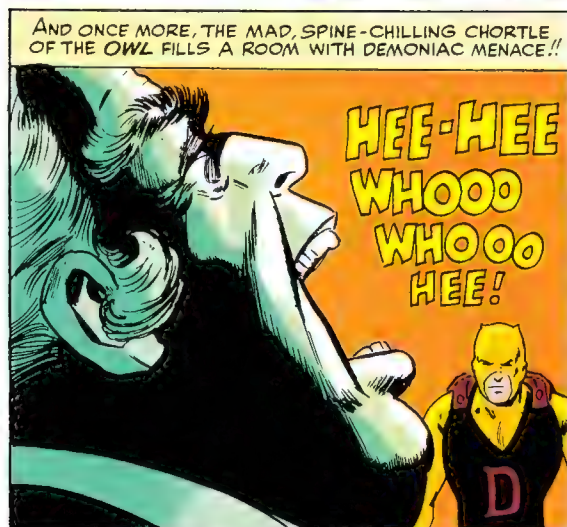
I DON'T KNOW WHO SHE IS, DAREDEVIL... BUT I CAN SENSE THE CONCERN IN YOUR VOICE! SO, SURRENDER TO ME IMMEDIATELY... OR ELSE!

GOOD WORK, BOSS!

LET ME DOWN! NO! DON'T... HELP!!

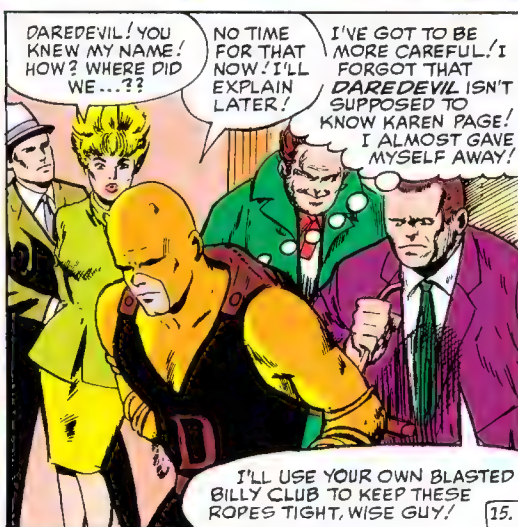


I SURRENDER!



AND ONCE MORE, THE MAD, SPINE-CHILLING CHORTLE OF THE OWL FILLS A ROOM WITH DEMONIAIC MENACE!!

HEE-HEE
WHOOO
WHOOO
HEE!



DAREDEVIL! YOU KNEW MY NAME! HOW? WHERE DID WE...??

NO TIME FOR THAT NOW! I'LL EXPLAIN LATER!

I'VE GOT TO BE MORE CAREFUL! I FORGOT THAT DAREDEVIL ISN'T SUPPOSED TO KNOW KAREN PAGE! I ALMOST GAVE MYSELF AWAY!

I'LL USE YOUR OWN BLASTED BILLY CLUB TO KEEP THESE ROPES TIGHT, WISE GUY!

LATER, BACK AT THE AVIARY OF THE OWL...

I'M IN SOME SORT OF LARGE CAGE! JUDGING BY THE SLIGHT AIR MOVEMENT ABOVE ME, IT'S DANGLING EXACTLY EIGHT AND A HALF FEET FROM THE CEILING... AND FROM THE SOUND OF THE OWL'S VOICE, IT'S TEN FEET FROM THE FLOOR!

ESTIMATING THE TIME IT TAKES AN ECHO TO BOUNCE BACK FROM THE WALLS, IT'S A HUGE ROOM, ROUGHLY 32.5 FEET IN DIAMETER! THAT TELLS ME ALL I NEED TO KNOW...FOR NOW!



I HOPE MY TWO GUESTS WILL BE COMFORTABLE! IF THERE'S ANYTHING YOU NEED, JUST RING FOR ROOM SERVICE!

WITHOUT ANOTHER WORD, THE OMINOUS OWL TURNS ON HIS HEEL AND LEAVES THE LARGE CHAMBER. MOMENTS LATER, WE FIND HIM ON HIS PERCH, OVERLOOKING THE HUDSON, AS HE PLANS HIS NEXT SINISTER MOVES...

ONCE THE UNDERWORLD LEARNS THAT I HAVE CAPTURED THE FEARLESS DAREDEVIL, NO OTHER CRIMINAL WOULD DARE TO DISPUTE MY LEADERSHIP! SOON, EVERYONE WILL ACKNOWLEDGE ME AS THE OVERLORD OF CRIME!



AND THEN, THE OWL RETURNS TO HIS TWO WAITING HENCHMEN...

I WANT YOU TO CONTACT EVERY TOP GANGSTER AND MOB LEADER IN THE CITY! TELL THEM THAT THEIR NEW OVERLORD, THE OWL, IS GOING TO DELIVER DAREDEVIL TO THEM! THAT WILL PROVE MY POWER! GO AT ONCE!

BUT WHAT IF THEY WON'T COME, BOSS??



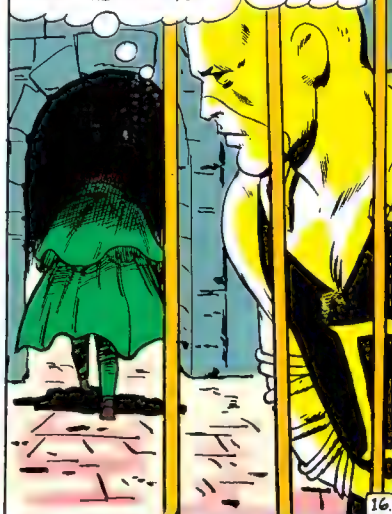
YOU BRAINLESS FOOL!! YOU ARE NEVER TO QUESTION THE OWL'S ORDERS! WHEN THEY HEAR THAT I HAVE CAPTURED DAREDEVIL, NOTHING WILL KEEP THEM AWAY! NOW GO!!



WITH THOSE SCATHING WORDS, THE OWL AGAIN DEPARTS, AS THE MAN WITHOUT FEAR THINKS QUICKLY...

SO! HE INTENDS TO HAND ME OVER TO THE UNDERWORLD, IN ORDER TO BECOME THEIR CHIEF! I'M NOT WORRIED ABOUT MYSELF, NO MATTER WHAT THE ODDS, BUT...

...I CAN'T LET ANY HARM COME TO KAREN! I'VE GOT TO GET HER FREE, SOMEHOW!



THEN THE MASKED SWASHBUCKLER ONCE AGAIN EXECUTES A FEAT OF AMAZING **MUSCLE CONTROL**, AS HE FLEXES HIS MUSCLES IN SUCH A WAY THAT HE EXERTS JUST THE RIGHT AMOUNT OF PRESSURE TO SNAP THE CENTER CATCH ON HIS BILLY CLUB WEAPON ...!

CONCEALED HINGE

WHATEVER I DO MUST BE DONE **NOW**... WHILE HIS TWO MUSCLE MEN ARE GONE!

THEN, ONCE THE PRESSURE HAS BEEN SLACKENED, IT'S A SIMPLE MATTER FOR THE SUPERBLY TRAINED **DAREDEVIL** TO SNAP THE NOW-LOOSENED CORDS...

IT'S LUCKY THAT HE DIDN'T SUSPECT MY CANE WEAPON IS HINGED IN THE CENTER!

SNAP!

I ALWAYS **KNEW** THIS THIN FLEXIBLE COTTER PIN WOULD COME IN HANDY SOME DAY! I'VE GOT TO REMOVE IT CAREFULLY... CAREFULLY... MUSTN'T DROP IT! AHhh, THERE!

THOUGH HIS EYES ARE SIGHTLESS, DAREDEVIL'S HYPERSENSITIVE FINGERS QUICKLY FEEL THE PERIMETER OF THE CAGE UNTIL THEY REACH A SMALL KEYHOLE! THEN, WITH THE UNERRING PRECISION OF A TRAINED LOCKSMITH, HE MANIPULATES THE PIN, UNTIL ...

CLICK!

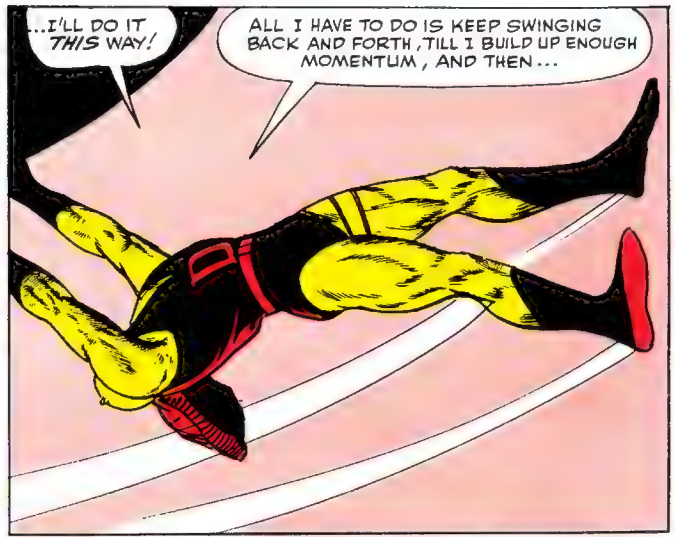
I DID IT! IT'S OPEN!

LEAVING HIS CAGE WITH ONE EFFORTLESS, SILENT SWING, THE FEARLESS CRIMEFIGHTER REALLY BEGINS TO HIT HIS STRIDE!

DON'T WORRY, KAREN! I'LL HAVE YOU OUT OF THERE IN **SECONDS**!

THE SOUND OF HER BREATHING, COUPLED WITH HER HEARTBEAT, TELL ME WHERE SHE IS JUST AS UNERRINGLY AS A RADAR SIGNAL GUIDES A PILOT IN THE THICKEST FOG!

THE FLOOR IS **WIRED**! IF YOU STEP ON IT, YOU'LL SET OFF AN ALARM!



AND SO, THE INCREDIBLY RESPONSIVE MUSCLES OF PAREDEVIL ARE AGAIN BROUGHT INTO PLAY! BRACING HIMSELF IN ORDER TO GET MAXIMUM LEVERAGE, FEELING THE EXACT PRESSURE POINTS OF THE BAR WITH HIS SENSITIVE TOUCH, HE EXERTS JUST THE RIGHT AMOUNT OF PRESSURE, UNTIL...

THERE! ENOUGH SPACE FOR YOU TO SQUEEZE THROUGH! WHEN YOU'RE FREE, HOLD ONTO MY SHOULDERS AND I'LL SWING US TO THE DOOR!



THEN, SILENTLY BUT SURELY, THE FEARLESS ADVENTURER, LEADS THE BRAVE GIRL DOWN A WINDING FLIGHT OF STEPS, AS HE UNERRINGLY FOLLOWS THE ODOR OF GASOLINE, WHICH GROWS STRONGER WITH EVERY STEP THEY TAKE...



MINUTES LATER... BUT, WHAT ABOUT YOU? WHAT IF THE OWL RETURNS AND FINDS YOU?

THEN HE'LL BE THE **UNHAPPIEST** LITTLE OWL YOU EVER DID SEE! NOW DON'T STOP FOR ANYTHING UNTIL YOU REACH THE POLICE, HEAR?

BUT YOU STILL HAVEN'T **EXPLAINED!** THE OWL WAS A CLIENT OF MY BOSS, MATT MURDOCK! WHAT DID HE **WANT?** HOW DID YOU GET INVOLVED? HOW DO YOU **KNOW** ME?

THE **LAST** QUESTION IS THE EASIEST! I'VE SEEN YOU IN MY DREAMS SINCE I CAN REMEMBER, KAREN!

STRANGE... WHEN YOU SAY THAT, SOMETHING IN YOUR VOICE REMINDS ME OF...

MY **SECOND** CARE-LESS MISTAKE! I FORGOT TO MUFFLE MY VOICE!

HOLD IT! I HEAR SOMETHING!!!

BUT, BECAUSE OF CONCENTRATING SO INTENTLY UPON KAREN PAGE, DAREDEVIL'S HEARING SENSE WAS A SECOND TOO SLOW, AND...

YOU CAN'T ESCAPE **ME!** ONCE I PULL THIS LEVER, THE GARAGE DOOR WILL BE SEALED SHUT, AND YOU'LL BE MY PRISONERS AGAIN!

IGNORE HIM, KAREN! START DRIVING!

MOVING FASTER, MORE UNERRINGLY, THAN ANY NORMAL, SIGHTED MAN COULD, THE DAZZLING DAREDEVIL JAMS HIS UBIQUITOUS BILLY CLUB INTO THE DELICATE SPRING MECHANISM, DELAYING ITS ACTION JUST LONG ENOUGH FOR KAREN'S ESCAPE...

I CAN HEAR THE BALL BEARINGS MESHING! ALL I NEED DO IS THRUST MY CANE TOWARDS THE SOUND OF THE MASTER BEARING... LIKE **THIS!**

AND NOW, OWL... IT'S **JUST** YOU AGAINST ME! ...AND THAT'S THE WAY I LIKE IT!!

YOU'RE A FAR MORE DANGEROUS FOE THAN I SUSPECTED, DAREDEVIL... BUT I'M **STILL** YOUR MASTER! I'M HEAVIER... MORE POWERFUL... MORE CUNNING! AND REMEMBER... WE'RE FIGHTING ON **MY** HOME GROUNDS!

I'VE PLANNED TOO LONG, TOO CAREFULLY... I'VE TOO MUCH AT STAKE, TO LET YOU STOP ME **NOW!**

I'VE GOT A LITTLE SOMETHING AT STAKE, TOO... MY LIFE!!

ALTHOUGH FIGHTING A HEAVIER, POWERFUL, MORE DESPERATE OPPONENT, THE YEARS OF TRAINING AND BODYBUILDING WHICH MATT MURDOCK SPENT AS A YOUTH PAY OFF FOR HIM NOW!



ALL I NEED DO IS SHIFT MY WEIGHT QUICKLY, GRAB HIS FREE RIGHT ARM, AND BEND FORWARD SUDDENLY FROM THE WAIST!

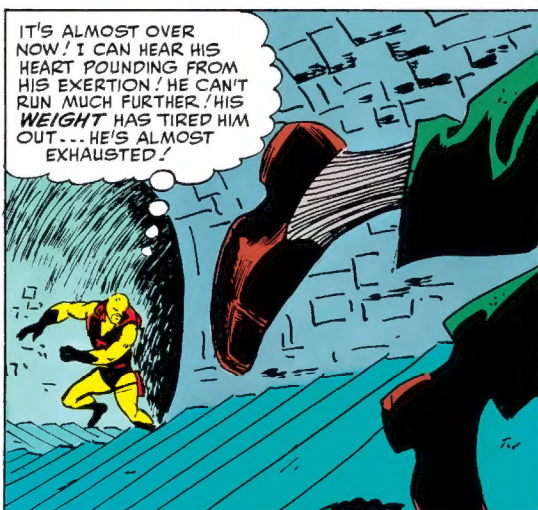


WHATEVER I DO MUST BE DONE **QUICKLY!** THERE'S NO TELLING HOW SOON THE OWL'S TWO HENCHMEN WILL RETURN WITH THE GANG LEADERS THEY WERE SENT TO BRING BACK!

BUT SUDDENLY, THE ELUSIVE OWL WRENCHES FREE OF DAREDEVIL'S GRASP AND RACES FRANTICALLY THROUGH THE GLOOMY HALLS...

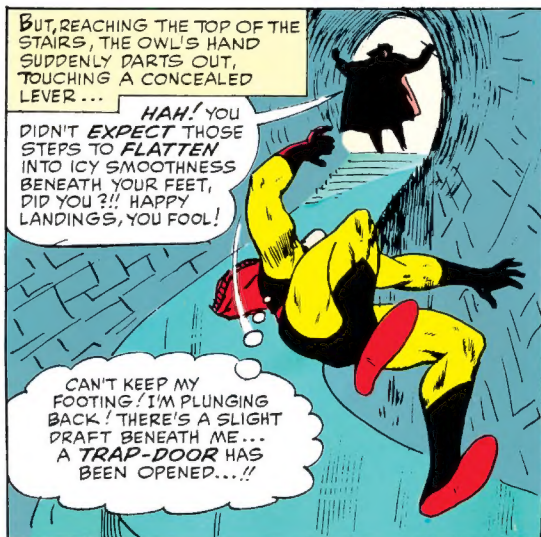


NOW THE ODDS ARE ALL IN MY FAVOR! YOU'LL NEVER CATCH ME HERE IN THE DARK! HE DOESN'T SUSPECT THAT THERE IS NO DARKNESS TO ME! MY BRAIN IS FILLED WITH SOUNDS AND AROMAS THAT GUIDE ME LIKE BEACONS!



IT'S ALMOST OVER NOW! I CAN HEAR HIS HEART POUNDING FROM HIS EXERTION! HE CAN'T RUN MUCH FURTHER! HIS **WEIGHT** HAS TIRED HIM OUT... HE'S ALMOST EXHAUSTED!

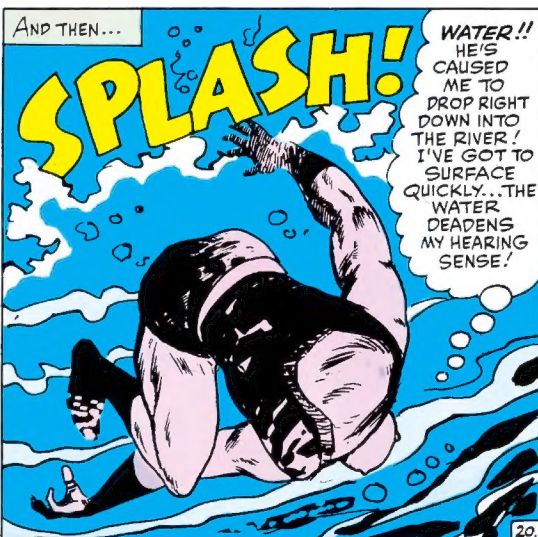
BUT, REACHING THE TOP OF THE STAIRS, THE OWL'S HAND SUDDENLY DARTS OUT, TOUCHING A CONCEALED LEVER...



HAH! YOU DIDN'T EXPECT THOSE STEPS TO FLATTEN INTO ICY SMOOTHNESS BENEATH YOUR FEET, DID YOU?! HAPPY LANDINGS, YOU FOOL!

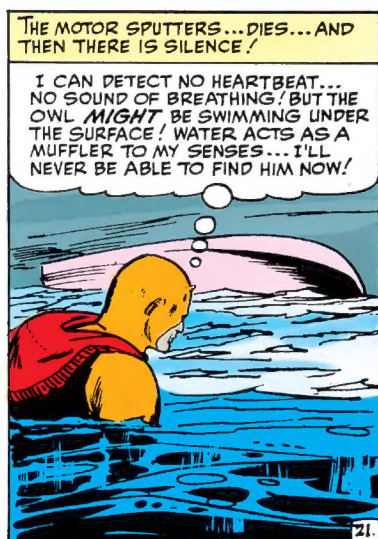
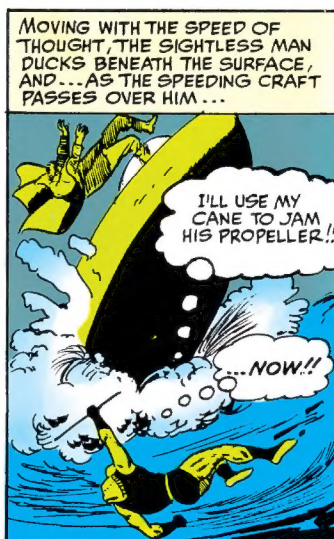
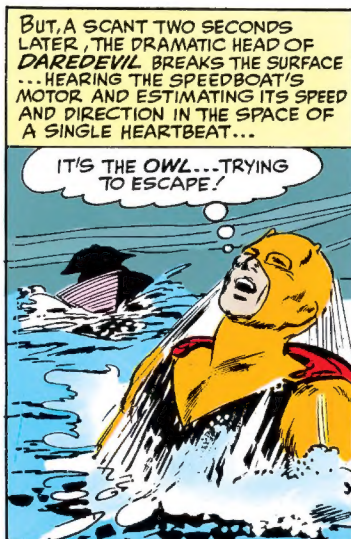
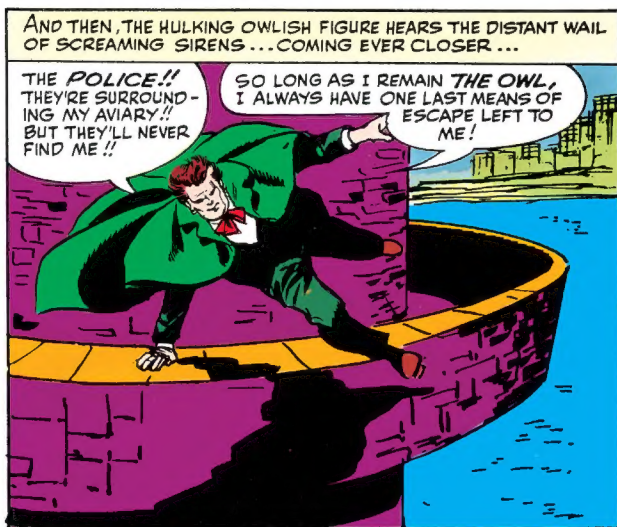
CAN'T KEEP MY FOOTING! I'M PLUNGING BACK! THERE'S A SLIGHT DRAFT BENEATH ME... A TRAP-DOOR HAS BEEN OPENED...!!

AND THEN...



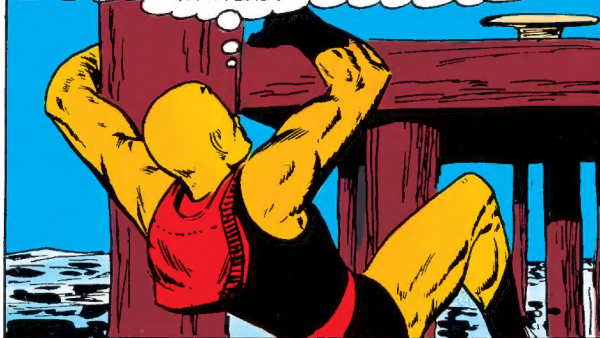
SPLASH!

WATER!! HE'S CAUSED ME TO DROP RIGHT DOWN INTO THE RIVER! I'VE GOT TO SURFACE QUICKLY...THE WATER DEADENS MY HEARING SENSE!



FRUSTRATED AT NOT KNOWING WHETHER HIS FOE IS ALIVE OR DEAD, THE WEARY ADVENTURER STEALTHILY CLIMBS ONTO THE NEARBY DOCK, REASSURED BY THE KNOWLEDGE THAT THE OWL'S PLAN HAS BEEN COMPLETELY SHATTERED.

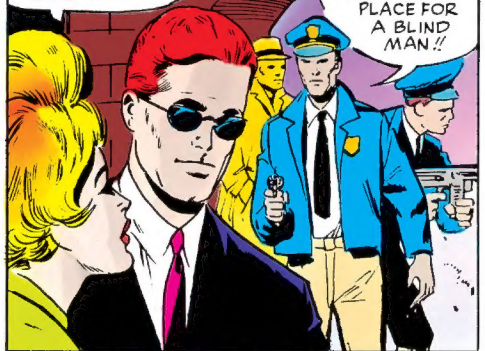
I'D BETTER CHANGE BACK TO MATT MURDOCK WHILE I CAN! I'LL TELL KAREN THAT I CAME HERE BECAUSE THE OWL SENT FOR ME, TO DISCUSS SOME LEGAL MATTERS!



AND SO, A FEW MINUTES LATER...

BETTER TAKE HIM BACK TO THE CITY, MA'AM! IF THOSE RACKET BOSSES ARE ON THEIR WAY HERE, THIS'LL BE NO PLACE FOR A BLIND MAN!!

OH, MATT... YOU'RE LUCKY THAT YOU DIDN'T GET HERE EARLIER! YOU'VE NO IDEA WHAT A DANGEROUS CREATURE THE OWL IS!!



THANK YOU, OFFICER! I SUPPOSE IT IS NEEDLESSLY DANGEROUS FOR ME TO REMAIN HERE!

BUT I WON'T MISS THE EXCITEMENT ANYWAY! I CAN HEAR THE MOBSTERS' CARS APPROACHING THE AVIARY NOW!



IN FACT, THEY SOUND AS THOUGH THEY'RE JUST RIDING THROUGH THE GATE, PAST THE PLAINCLOTHESMEN WHO ARE STATIONED ON EITHER SIDE!

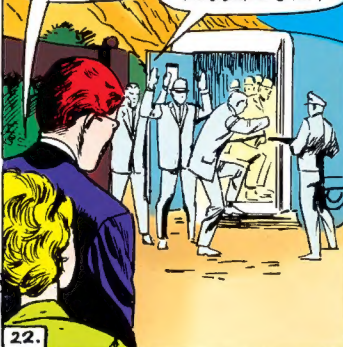


JUDGING BY THE AMOUNT OF PULSEBEATS I HEAR, THE POLICE GOT THEM ALL... INCLUDING APE AND SILENT SAM! IT'S THE BIGGEST HAUL SINCE APPALACHIAN!



THEY'RE TAKING ALL THE MOBSTERS BACK TO TOWN IN PADDY WAGONS, MR. MURDOCK! AND, WITH THE OWL VANISHED, IT SEEMS YOU'VE LOST A CLIENT!

FROM WHAT I'VE HEARD OF HIM, KAREN, IT'S NOT MUCH OF A LOSS! I'M NOT REALLY CUT OUT FOR ALL THIS COPS AND ROBBERS STUFF!



IT'S ODD... EVEN THOUGH YOU SAY THAT... YOU REMIND ME SOMEHOW OF ANOTHER MAN... A MAN WHO IS SO TOTALLY DIFFERENT!

OH, WELL, EH... I GUESS WE'D BETTER BE GETTING HOME NOW...



AND, AFTER REACHING THE CITY, AS MATT SLOWLY WALKS AWAY...

I MUST BE FALLING IN LOVE WITH HIM! WHY ELSE WOULD SUCH A SHY, QUIET, HANDICAPPED MAN REMIND ME OF... OF ALL PEOPLE... THE MAN CALLED DAREDEVIL ??!





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